

your
right
to use

your
responsibility
to
share

footpaths, bridleways, and byways



“Enjoy the countryside and follow the Countryside Code”

- be safe - plan ahead, follow signs
- leave gates and property as you find them
- protect plants and animals, and take litter home
- keep dogs under close control
- consider other people

What are Public Rights of Way?

Public footpaths, bridleways and byways offer everyone a chance to travel without using the roads. They create a network for enjoying the countryside.

In **Essex** there are over 6000 kilometres of public rights of way.

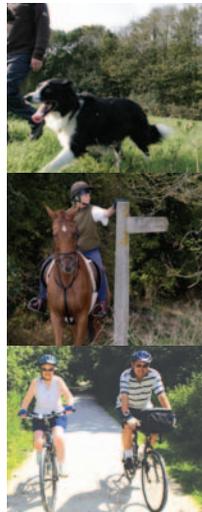
There are **four types** of route nationally

 **Footpaths** for walkers.

 **Bridleways** for walkers, riders and cyclists.

 **Byways** for walkers, riders, cyclists, horse drawn and motorised vehicles. Some are closed at certain times of the year.

 **Restricted Byway** for walkers, riders, cyclists, horse drawn vehicles - no mechanically propelled vehicles



When using a Public Right of Way (PRoW) remember the land either side is **private** property.

Finding **your way**

For general every day use an up-to-date Ordnance Survey map can be purchased from any good bookshop.



The Definitive Map and Statement is the legal record of exactly where footpaths, bridleways and byways are located. It is held by Essex County Council who are required to keep it up to date. This includes processing diversions (change of route) and claims (for example, when an individual or group claims a route based on historic evidence, or regular use). A more detailed guide to the Definitive Map is at the back of this leaflet.

We also publish a **free guide** to walks and rides in the county '**Our Guide, Your Countryside**'. You can get a copy by calling the number at the back of this leaflet. Information is also on our website at: www.essexcc.gov.uk

Things to **help you enjoy PRow** in Essex

Public Rights of Way must have Fingerposts at either end where they leave a road. Along the route there may be waymarkers to assist you where a path changes direction or crosses other paths. We recommend you use a map or follow a promoted route to find your way around.



Byway



Footpath



Bridleway



Restricted Byway

Taking your dog with you

Dogs under close control are welcome on all PRow's. We do advise that dogs are kept on a lead especially near livestock and other users. Also please remember to clear up after your dog everywhere you go including out in the countryside.



Fences, stiles and gates

Farmers must have permission from the County Council to install a gate or stile on a PRow. They are only for the control of livestock and should be maintained by the farmer. Any obstruction including barbed wire, electric fences or barriers that prevents you from using a definitive path is illegal.

Ploughed fields and crops on paths

Where a path crosses a field (unless it is a Byway) a farmer can disturb a cross-field path for upto 14 days a year, if it cannot be reasonably avoided, after which the path must be restored and kept free of crops. Field edge paths must not be disturbed.

If you come across any problems using a PRow you should contact your local area officer.

Contact details are at the back of this leaflet.

Overgrown and muddy paths

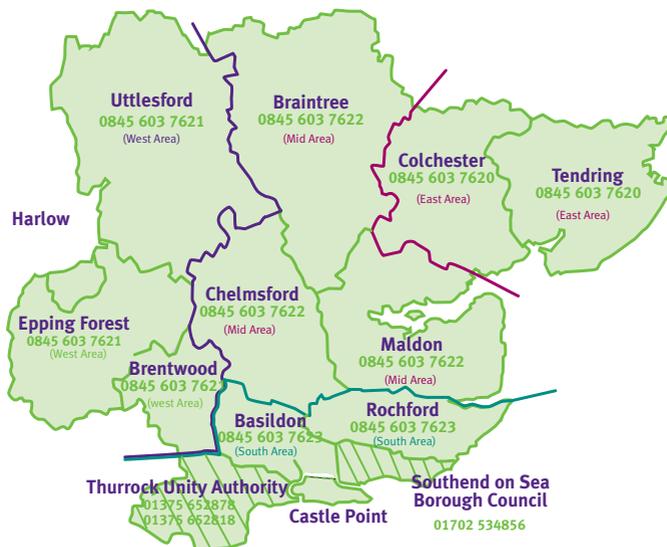
The condition of paths can change throughout the seasons. The County Council is responsible for surfaces and drainage on paths (except the cross field ones) and for the seasonal cutting of routes. Any growth from overhanging trees or vegetation is the responsibility of the landowner.

Bulls and dangerous animals

Some bulls are allowed in fields with PRoW's running through them. They must be under 10 months old **or** beef breeds accompanied by cows. Dairy breeds of bull over 10 months must not be kept in a field with a PRoW. Any animal that is known to be dangerous must **not** be kept loose on a public right of way.

Who to contact

(If there is a maintenace problem on a public right of way)



(not to scale)

What is the **Definitive Map and Statement**?

The Definitive Map and Statement defines the 6000 plus kms of network (Byways, Bridleways and Footpaths) through which the public can enjoy the countryside in Essex. It is a legal document and provides the framework for all Rights of Way work.

The Statement provides a brief written description of each Public Right of Way. If a path is shown on the Definitive Map and Statement it is conclusive evidence in law that it is a Public Right of Way and must be available for use every day of the year.

The Definitive Map does not cover roadside footways (pavements) or any other type of highway. PRow cannot be moved ('diverted') or closed ('extinguished') except by formal order.

Is the Definitive Map up to date?

The present Definitive Map was published in November 2002 and incorporates all changes made to paths up to 1 July 2002. All changes after July 2002 are recorded on Modification Orders, which have to be read in conjunction with the Definitive Map.

Where can I see the Definitive Map, Statement and Modification Orders?

All parish/town councils and district councils hold copies of the relevant Definitive Maps and Statements covering their area. These (by law) should be available for the public to inspect at all reasonable times of the day. The Public Rights of Way Office at County Hall in Chelmsford holds a complete set of Definitive Maps and Statements, which can be viewed by appointment only. Contact details are on the back of this leaflet.

**This booklet is issued by Essex County Council
Public Rights of way.**

You can contact us in the following ways:

By telephoning our Helpline:

on 0845 603 7631

By post:

Essex County Council
Freepost CL289
County Hall, Chelmsford CM1 1YY

By email:

prow.web@essexcc.gov.uk

By textphone: for people with hearing difficulties

0845 7430 430

Useful Links

www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-countryside

www.essexcc.gov.uk/PRoW

**The information contained in this booklet is available
in alternative formats: large print, braille, audio tape or disk.
We can also translate this information into other languages.**

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For a Greener Essex